

shattered the old securities, and, for the working people, brought new dangers and new sufferings, they present the picture of the New Capitalists laying the foundations of Democracy, and breaking up the old static vocational basis of society. There follows a passage such as they often drop, which is a veritable searchlight on the

" incompatibility between complete political democracy and the unrestrained exercise of property rights in everything that could possibly be made subject to private ownership "

This incompatibility was grasped by Cromwell and by Ireton in the debates in the Council of War at Reading in 1647 but it was not so much as glimpsed by the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America, or by those French Revolutionists who

"unhesitatingly assumed that an absolute right of private property without limits or qualifications, was actually implicit in the * Rights of Man' and in political citizenship "

In the general sketch that follows, they are scrupulously fair to the Benthamites, who

" sought, as would now be said by the business man, to introduce into Government Departments the motives and methods of profit-making enterprise "

The Benthamites tended to over-intellectualise, but

"No one who realises the state of things in 1833, when under the Reformed Parliament the Benthamites, for a few brief years, came into their own, can doubt the great public benefit, even with all their short-comings and defects, effected by the Commissioners who enquired into the Poor Law, the Municipal Corporations, and the sanitary condition of the population, or the imperative necessity of some such central departments as they wished to see established to inspect, guide and control the

local administration of Poor relief, public health,
and municipal
government generally "

The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835,
with all its
defects, was, they say, more truly judged by
Francis Place,